

[17th July 1962]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to Legislative Assembly starred question No. 341 on page 100]

4.—(a) The Team for the Study of Seed Multiplication Scheme have made the following 17 recommendations :—

(1) The phasing of the improved seed programme may be carried out with the following priorities in the order of importance :—

(i) Coverage of 75 per cent of area in pulses and minor millets by the end of the Third Plan period ;

(ii) mapping out fresh areas for distribution of seed of already popular strains of paddy, cotton, sorghum, etc., through an intense planned coverage of new villages and new ryots to saturate the entire area by the Second Plan period ;

(iii) Village panchayats shall be made to ensure that improved seed or major crops reaches each village and if not, to arrange for its supply from the district staff. This will ensure absolute village coverage ; and

(iv) Creation of an All-India reserve of improved seed of selection crops to meet emergencies of crop failures due to floods, droughts, etc.

(2) In the case of State Seed Farms—

(i) The future size and the existing size wherever suitable may be increased to 50 acres for each farm as this will reduce working costs per acre and give more scope for multiplying crops like pulses, groundnut and millets where foundation seed is inadequate ;

(ii) The practice of leasing lands for the purpose of establishing seed farms may be stopped as it adds to working costs and hampers permanent improvement ;

(iii) Unassigned Government lands may be got as far as possible as this will reduce capital cost and also provide for reclamation and expansion as desired ; and

(iv) Large farms of about 100 acres each amounting to in all about 1,000 acres may be acquired nearer in the vicinity of agricultural stations in rainfed areas especially for growing groundnut, millets and pulses, where the tempo of foundation seed production has to be increased and they may be kept under the control of the concerned research stations.

(3) A periodical survey for the spread of improved varieties for all crops is necessary as was done in paddy and millets. It is suggested that a sample survey of one village for every 3,000 acres of cropped areas will give adequate information practically for all crops.

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(4) It is necessary to have seed testing stations to get useful knowledge regarding the behaviour of different seeds under storage, handling and distribution in regard to dormancy and viability. The Madras Scheme for the establishment of regional seed testing stations and laboratories with provisions for field testing submitted for the Third Plan may be approved as also similar schemes from other States also as this will help considerably to improve the quality of seeds distributed. These schemes may be co-ordinated with similar schemes in the Centre. The practice in Madras of using tetrazolium bromide for quick germination test in paddy and cotton may be extended to other States.

(5) The system of State Seed Farms which has succeeded nearly meeting the targets for paddy may be expanded to meet the full needs of other crops by the end of the Third Plan period.

(6) More facilities like proper seed store threshing and drying floors have to be provided and special equipment for cleaning grain and receptacles supplied.

(7) The village seed farm system which has proved successful for covering large areas under paddy is considered best for future saturation of the whole area with major crops by the second Five-Year Plan period and for the minor crops in the Third Plan period. It should be extended to cover every village with improved seed. In this connection the team recommends the implementation of the proposal under consideration of the Madras Government to have Gramasahayaks for every village to act as village leaders, model small farm cultivators and secondary producers of improved seed.

(8) For conducting plot trial more adequately and also expanding the scope of testing seeds at all stages, one Assistant specially trained may be posted for work with each District Agricultural Officer.

(9) The work of Seed Development Officers in testing seed and helping State Seed Farms work should be amplified by providing provision of more assistant staff, if necessary, so that all registered seed can be fully tested before distribution.

(10) The seed testing and development officers may be recruited from the crop specialist staff and the extension officers from the district staff.

(11) For providing more efficiency and output in the developmental blocks, it is recommended that an officer of the status of the District Agricultural Officer be posted for groups of blocks and Agricultural Extension Officer, placed under him.

(12) Technical direction at the highest level of the Agricultural Department is recommended to meet the needs of seed distribution and other associated activities.

(13) In order to get the full benefit of their knowledge and experience distinguished crop specialists engaged in the production of improved seed should be retained in the line by improving their

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prospects, instead of letting them take to administrative posts carrying higher salaries and men of approved merit to give expert attention to seed work.

(14) More contact between the specialists and ryots is necessary to correlate the basic seed problem of the latter with the fundamental research programme of the farms. Special facilities should be provided for this by frequent tours in the villages.

(15) State Trading in seed has been considerably reduced by the system of the State Seed Farms, supplemented by the village seed farm system of distribution of seed from seed farm ryots to other ryots. Restricting State Trading to a minimum can improve the efficiency of seed work. Arrangements must be made to dispose of unsold stocks of one year rapidly under clear technical administrative advice so that disciplinary proceedings against subordinates can be avoided or reduced to a minimum.

(16) In Maharashtra, the practice exists of sending out pre-treated seed from Agricultural Stations on orders packed in cloth bags in small quantities to ryots, when the supply to State Seed Farms has been completed. This practice is recommended for adoption in Madras to ryots in new areas, so that the supply can be used only as seed and without affecting the general programme of large scale distribution.

(17) Large scale distribution can be effected only if every village gets improved seeds. This aspect should be emphasised at every stage of multiplication and distribution and all steps directed to that end. Foundation for seed work should be laid in the villages. For this purpose more ryots in the villages need to be educated to appreciate the value of good seed by actual trials and demonstration in the villages, particularly those not covered by improved strains. Village panchayats and Gramasevaks should be made to help in this work. The aim in seed distribution should be to saturate the whole villages with improved seeds as rapidly as possible. Along with such saturation, there must be a regular and continuous flow of pure seed into the village so that each ryot can renew his seed once in three to five years depending on the crop he grows.

(b) Fourteen recommendations have been accepted.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to Legislative Assembly starred question No. 351 on page 105.]

(a) and (b) There are three types of fertilisers viz., nitrogenous, phosphatic and potassic. Of the three, the first type is distributed in the State under Government Trading Schemes while the other two varieties of fertilisers are distributed through private